



**West Hamilton-City Accommodation Review
Working Group Meeting #5
March 1 2017- 6:00 pm
Earl Kitchener School
Minutes**

Attendance

Committee Members: John Efthimiadis, Rob Fiedler, Tracy Upham, Barbara Stares, Matt Allen, Tanya Ritchie, Allison Savage, David Heska, Janine Durajlija, Melissa Crawford, Nadine Bernacki, Shelly Turk, Teri Lantagne, Khantavy Sayavon, Sue Caven, Nicole Poyton, Sarah Sirkett, Katherine Graham, Helen Demczuk, Eleni Jalbout, Jennifer Walsom

Committee Member Regrets:

HWDSB Resource Staff: – Superintendent/Chair Sue Dunlop, Mary Finstad, Estella Jones, Steve Johnstone, Sean Malcolmson, Tannis Hamill, Karen Koop, Bob Fex, Gerry Smith, Richelle Bratuz, Dan Ivankovic

Trustees: Jeff Beattie, Christine Bingham, Todd White

Public: 2

Recording Secretary: Sue Phillips

Housekeeping Items

Clarification regarding agenda – if a committee member wants something added to the agenda they can do so by asking and if all are in agreement, it can be added to the agenda

Working Group #4 meeting minutes – approved

Correspondence – 2 pieces

Barbara Stares thanked Nadine Bernacki for her work on alternate options and moved that Nadine presents her options to the committee. Committee agreed by show of hands.

Q. Is there a way for people to present their cases/delegations to the committee?

A. Yes if the committee decided that they would want someone to come in to present. People can also present a delegation to the board. We could also reach out to the individual to ask if their contact information can be shared, thereby allowing a committee member to reach out for information.

Nadine presented her thinking around her options thanking the committee for the opportunity, noting she is honoured to be part of the committee. She also pointed out that we need to remember that the school board has asked us and our communities to put together a long-term vision. My vision is a vision for the future. I understand it is up to the staff to look at the numbers. Even if we have constraints within this process it is I hope we can keep the door open. Keep the community hub a possibility. There are a lot of passionate people working on this process.

No further questions on correspondence.

Q. There seems to be a downsizing of the big schools. How does the government do that? Will they reduce the OTG if you mothball a wing, take away a certain number of classrooms from active use? Will they take that into consideration when they consider overall utilization?

A. Bob – In my experience this has been done. An example of a PTR (prohibitive to repair) project at another school Board was given. I have not seen it happen at a newer school that is not in disrepair. Like most capital projects, there would likely need to be a business case submitted to the Ministry for funding. If the trustees decided they wanted to do that ask they would prepare a report and ask. When instructional school space is physically removed, that portion of its capacity would be removed as it is no longer there.

Q. If we have space available at a school and if we can find a community partner to lease space in that school can we use that space as a way to reduce the OTG?



A. I think there would be consideration on the ministry side if it was used for community use. To be a community partner you must qualify under education system specifics – meet certain criteria conducive to education and the safety of students. The ministry wants us to have community partners as an alternative to occupy spaces.

Q. How many hours a week does the community partner have to occupy the space?

A. I don't think it's built that way – if the partnership aligns with the board's vision I don't think there is a minimum amount.

Q. Comment for Nadine – from a financial point of view the board is suggesting to close Hess St. to save money but your suggestion is to build two additional schools at a tremendous cost. We or the Trustees would have to decide the best use of the ten million it would cost to build those additional schools – would it be best used to spend on the nine schools?

A. Nadine – I'm suggesting a long-term vision. It wouldn't be something that we can engage in now. It is possible next year or even five years.

Q. How is the Dr. Davey community centre viewed?

A. It is not a part of Dr. Davey

Q. Why did we build Dr. Davey for that many (800) students?

A. The decisions that were made at that time were based on enrolments and school consolidations that didn't come to fruition.

Q: If you reached out to community informing them of available space without much interest will there be another attempt to reach out to community once this process is over?

A. If the committee is reaching consensus for the board to explore community hubs more in depth and have specific partners that we might want to approach directly as opposed to the yearly send out, then I think the trustees will hear that and will direct staff to do that. We do our best to reach out to 1000+ organizations/people. They are invited to come forward to hear what is available. We remind you that being in a school means very particular rules and needing to work with the space provided (often a classroom). Some partners might not see it as a viable opportunity. It is different for new builds because you can purpose build it. We are mandated by the province to speak to the communities about potential partnerships.

Q. Beyond community partners is there thought of having space for the purposes of things like the innovation centre?

Comment: In terms of what other drivers there are – the whole issue is what is enough excess space? it is vitally important to have a cushion if we needed it for more people.

Sue Dunlop clarified that the committee is not choosing an option. We are here to talk about the options and hear from the public on what they would like to see in the future.

Option/Analysis

Bob reviewed the options – with discussion from committee

Q. John Efthimiadis, had an opportunity to survey staff at Bennetto and there were comments around improving accessibility and modernization of the facility. Is it possible to get funds to modernize in the current state it is in? On the 1st option where we receive a large chunk of Hess/dual stream school, how would that impact the way the staff/students feel in the building? There are often times we feel we are at capacity.

Additional options

- Open one FI school at Strathcona site and combine Strathcona and Hess Jk-8
- Hess / Strathcona Jk-5 with 6-8 to Ryerson (with a reno at Ryerson) committee wants the info on this option
- Change in Central boundary for 6-8 – all 6-8 at Central go to Queen Victoria instead of Ryerson – committee wants info on this option
- 62 out of catchment to Bennetto
- Those bussed to Ryerson – go to Bennetto



Public Meeting

Sue reviewed the public meeting agenda (from flyer)

What do we want to communicate, how do we communicate, capturing feedback?

- Possible to present pros / cons?
 - Should we approach something like consensus for last working group meeting.
 - Present top-level options
 - Want the public to know the work of the committee
 - Need to make it clear that we don't make the final decision / that we have to present the info to trustees
 - Important we are transparent – present key issues, over capacity, decaying options. Present the initial option again and then the additional options we have come up with, explain potential benefits from possible closure of a school
 - Should we have the option on boards for viewing – people can add their feedback
 - Could we provide people with a questionnaire? No – potential for labour intensive work/different languages
 - Great thing is the opportunity to receive funds to make our schools better – help support student achievement.
- Question for the public – what would you like to see at your child's school? What is your vision of the downtown core / growth? What is their vision of the school's role in the community? Renovation to structure? Resources?

Wrap up

- We have high level on what we want at the public meeting
- We should have another meeting tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. at Queen Victoria.
- Need to be very focussed.

Next Steps

Public Meeting: March 8, 2017 Sir John A. Macdonald School, 6:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:40